MARVEL

[dest_]
[_iny_]
[_of_X]

004

ANDERS
BALÁM
D'AMICO
MILLA

NEW MUTANTS

LETHAL LEGION

The Voluptuous Cherry Orchard. Westchester County, NY.

You come into *my house* and disrespect me! You *steal from me!*

This is just embarrassing. You're *embarrassing* yourselves.

So, in order to get over being attacked by super villains, we decided to get ourselves attacked by super villains.

These @#&% flowers are wrecking my visibility.

...Yeah. *I know.*

If I'd known I'd be fighting mutants, I'd have charged ***double.***

The ***persecution complex.*** It makes me tired.

Moonstone is like the chaotic-neutral version of Captain Marvel? I ***really*** don't understand anything.

Everybody out of the car!

This is a rental! We paid a ***deposit!***

The time for regrets is over. All that matters is what we do ***now.***

If we face this as a team, we can win. We play it smart, we go to ground. We show them who we are--

--NEW MUTANTS!

Now ***that's*** an inspirational speech.

I think I found the people I would die for.

Hopefully not today though.

Cerebella! You and I can slow them down.

Right! Don't give them a target.

Everyone else, move out! Protect the box.

So...you and *Escapade,* huh?

I like her. A *lot.* But I'm starting to think she's bad for me.

Kill!

Actually, killing's a waste of time. They respawn.

It's just my catchphrase.

Your catchphrase is *one syllable?*

Ready?

Yeah.

Let's make 'em dance.

Aaaaaahhhh!!!

Hey, watch it!

Skullbuster! I'm sick of you *stealing my look--*

Wha--?

Screw you! My catchphrase is *mellifluous and distinctive!*

Stop this!

You are the *Lethal Legion!* Show some self-respect!

--and I'm giving you an *instant makeover.*

Now I'm going to kill *you!*

Oh snap. They have a telepath. Or maybe *two.*

I've been brain-jacked before.

Always wanted to make a telepath's head explode. I bet their brains'd look real pretty.

We go to ground.

Yeah.

[00_Destiny]
[00___ of X]

NEW MUTANTS

LETHAL LEGION

PART FOUR

Fresh recruit Shela Sexton, A.K.A. Escapade, has already helped defeat Sublime and his U-Men AND prevented her best friend Morgan Red's death. But the adventure took its toll on all of them. To shake it off, Escapade, Cerebella, and Scout devised a plan to rob the notorious Count Nefaria! But Shela left Morgan behind, and he ended up on an adventure of his own with Wolfsbane in the Morlock tunnels, where they nabbed some Spider-Slayer tech and befriended a beastie dubbed "Beatrice."

Meanwhile, the burglaring crew ran into trouble: What they found in Nefaria's vault was no teenage trinket but an ultimate weapon wielded by the Eternals! Nefaria intends to use it somehow at a "Future Expo" in the heart of New York City.

Tracking the kids, Dani, Karma, Galura, and Rahne swept in for a rescue, but now Nefaria's brought in heavy hitter Moonstone to recover his property!

[SHELA SEXTON, A.K.A. ESCAPADE]

[MORGAN RED]

[MARTHA JOHANSSON, A.K.A. CEREBELLA]

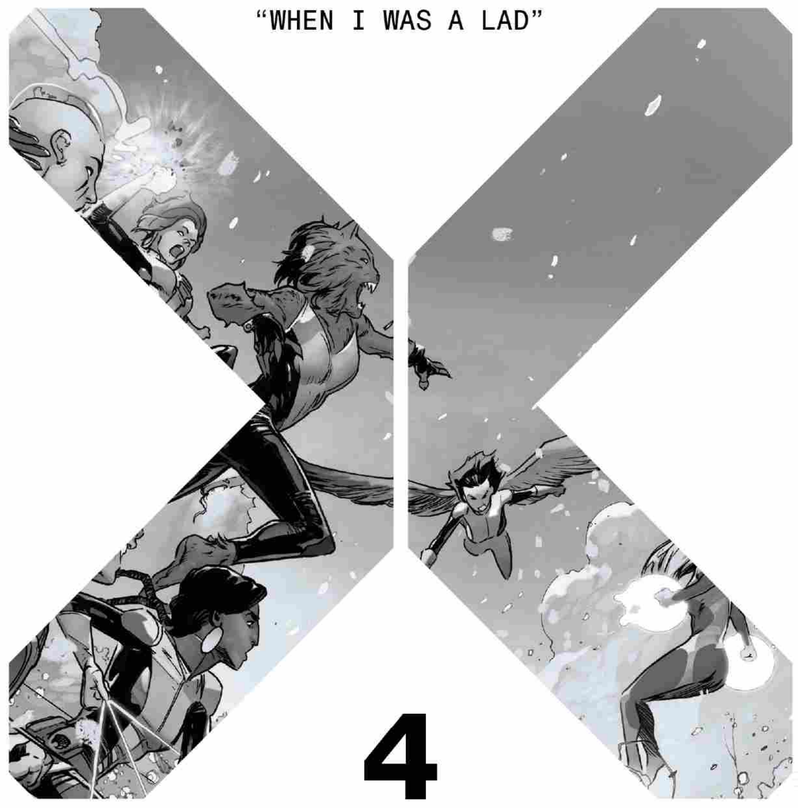
[GABBY KINNEY, A.K.A. SCOUT]

[RAHNE SINCLAIR, A.K.A. WOLFSBANE]

[DANI MOONSTAR, A.K.A. MIRAGE]

[XUÂN CAO MANH, A.K.A. KARMA]

[GABRIELLE DIWA, A.K.A. GALURA]



Charlie Jane Anders/Writer
Enid Balám/Penciler
Elisabetta D'Amico/Inker
Matt Milla/Color Artist
VC's Travis Lanham/Letterer
Javi Fernández &
Erick Arciniega/Cover Artists

Tom Muller w/ Jay Bowen/Design
Carlos Lao/Production
Anita Okoye/Assistant Editor
Sarah Brunstad/Editor
Jordan D. White/Senior Editor
C.B. Cebulski/Editor in Chief

© 2023 MARVEL. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental.

[00_new_mutants]
[00_lethal_legion]

[00_00….0]
[00_00…04]

I know Xuân can take care of herself, but...I already saw her die *once.* My heart can't take that again.

Nefaria had a basketball court! And a *movie theater!*

He had a *wall of heads,* Rahne!

I swear their eyes were following me.

Karma will be fine, Galura. They both will.

Please *talk to me,* Morgan. Whatever I did, I'm sorry.

Now's not the time, Shela.

And check out his sword collection--

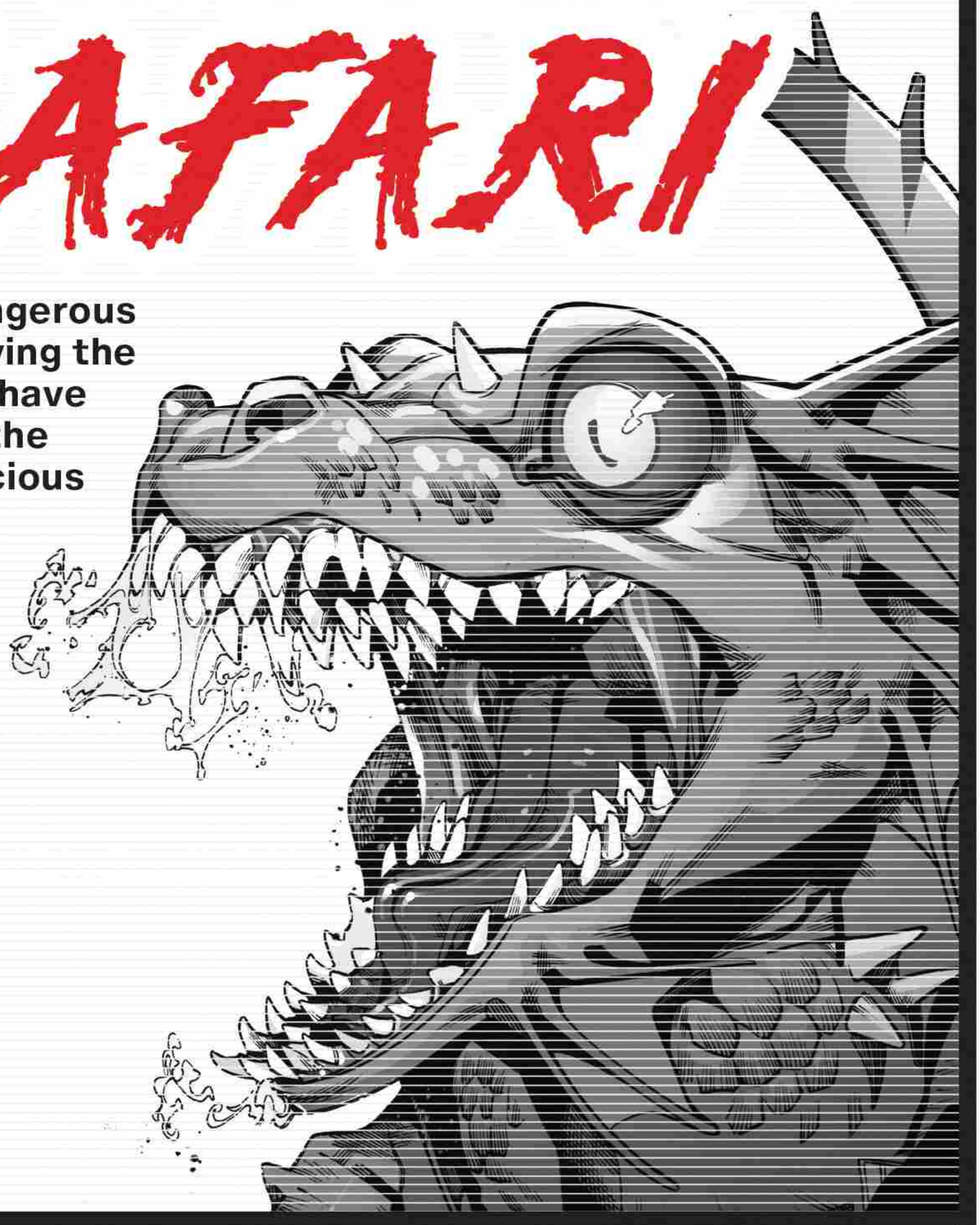
Hold up. Go back to that last photo.

Oh, Beatrice.

No wonder his voice caused you such distress. Nefaria killed your *friend.*

We'll make our stand here.

SEWER SAFARI



Hunt the Most Dangerous Game without leaving the tri-state area. We have released some of the world's most ferocious predators into the New York sewers, where they are roaming free. So now, for the right price, you can experience the thrill of pursuit, the joy of hunting monsters.

Just one of the fearsome creatures you can stalk and kill--before it tries to kill you first!

TESTIMONIALS:

"My primal vitality is restored! I felt the blood crying out in my veins, my adrenal glands galloping like a herd of stallions. Too long have I cloistered myself in Yonkers, nursing my wounds and engaging in skirmishes with my homeowners association. My heart pines for the savage dance of predator and prey and here, in this odious cistern of filth, I have found it! This beast was a stain on the world, but now its head will live on my wall forever!"
--Count Luchino Nefaria

"A truly enjoyable experience. I only shot one of my own people, so I'd consider that a total success." --Ulysses Klaw

"Meh." --Kraven the Hunter

Terms and conditions: You agree to waive all liability for injuries sustained during the sewer safari. You are responsible for keeping track of your party and for wearing sewer-resistant clothing. By reading this, you acknowledge that some sewer gases are highly flammable, and the use of firearms could result in self-immolation. You agree not to disparage or criticize Sewer Safari LLC, and that any disputes will be subject to arbitration that will take place in a dreamstate five thousand years from now. You further acknowledge that the term "monster" is essentially devoid of meaning and that the only true monstrosity is the cruelty of the human spirit, and you also acknowledge that hunting is a fundamentally abhorrent practice that perpetuates harmful power relations, and furthermore, that existence is utterly meaningless unless we commit to seeing all living things as our kin. You agree to indemnify and hold harmless Sewer Safari LLC from any existential crisis you may experience as a result of confronting your own capacity for needless violence in a dark, enclosed space. Further, you acknowledge that purging your own negative emotions while wading through human effluvia provides an on-the-nose metaphor for the ways in which humanity's enduring capacity for evil

Morgan, I'm going to need that ionic siphon soon.

I'll do my best.

Escapade, protect him. Anyone comes close, steal their mojo.

Okay.

MANDRAKE CARPET MILL

SOON TO BE LUXURIOUS HOUSING

CALL NOW

Traps, ambushes-- we keep them chasing their tails.

Just be careful with this ***box.*** It's sweaty and unstable and basically the ***wrong*** kind of party. If it falls, we all go boom.

I always forget how much humans love money!

They don't love money, they hate it. They're just afraid.

Of *what?*

I wish I knew, Scout.

They're coming.

No sign of Karma and Cerebella. They better be okay.

Come on! They took the box this way!

Martha... You ***know*** you can be ***into*** someone without wanting to ***be like*** them, right?

Look at me and Galura. I could never be as outgoing as her.

It's just... Escapade sold me this whole Robin Hood fantasy.

As if this heist would make me ***feel better*** after everything we went through. But--

Wait--*shh*-- someone's--

I could not help overhearing.

Ack!

So. I am the victim of a robbery motivated not by ***greed*** but by... ***mental anguish?***

Um, kind of. It's complicated.

You had ***suffered.*** And instead of allowing you to deal with it in ***your own way,*** your friend pushed you to handle it in ***hers?***

I would not ***allow*** such a person ***in my life!***

Yeah, but... you have *no friends.*

I... I...

Seriously. You should *not* be giving relationship advice.

The point remains! You were *hurt,* and instead of dealing with it, you decided to hurt *me.*

You *kept the cycle going.* I have seen where this leads.

Eh, I don't feel bad about robbing you.

I'm just annoyed because I could have spent today doing literally *anything,* and I'm stuck dealing with your garbage.

After today, you will have *no need* of relationship advice!

Ready?

Oh yeah.

We got him!

Great!

What do we *do* with him?

Hold still, Hibbert. This energy converter is a delicate beast, and I've got a minor head--

MEEP?

--injury?

I didn't ask you to take away my bruise.

You didn't *have to.* You heard Dani--we're a team.

I'm going to move back in with my parents for a while.

But our apartment--

We got evicted. You weren't there.

"Our gaming club died. They put our support group on pause.

"Everything fell apart while you were busy *planning a heist without me.*"

I lost track of time! I don't even know what *time zone* Krakoa is in.

You'll never understand, because you *refuse* to *go there.*

"I really didn't mean to ghost you!

"I was trying to be there for Martha."

Right. As soon as you didn't have to worry anymore about causing my *death,* you moved on.

Found someone *else* to feel responsible for.

Where'd they go?!

"You want people to rely on you, but then you just disappear into thin air."

It's *working!* I think he's running out of juice.

Oh. Ohhh.

I...I know what Nefaria is planning.

I know what he needs the Weird Engine for.

When I was a lad, I served a term as office boy to an attorney's firm.

Yagh! I've lost hi--

Nobody controls Count Luchino Nefaria!!!

You should have listened when that scientist warned you...

The Weird Engine w-won't work like you think it will...

You're changing too, Morgan.

Huh?

You want to pretend I'm the *only one* who's changing.

But you're making friends with Wolfsbane. We've *both* had our lives turned upside down.

I get it. Change is scary. We had a nice cozy setup. I wish it had lasted.

And maybe it's easier to blame me than the world.

I served the writs with a smile so bland, and I copied all the letters in a big round hand.

WHAM

PLONK

MEEP!

Yeah, but you've been *having fun,* and I've--

KRRSH

What the hell was *that?*

Eep!

I copied all the letters in a hand so free that now I am the ruler of the Queen's Navee!

I wore clean collars and a brand new suit for the pass examination at the Institute.

You'll kill ***thousands.*** You'll...you'll only ***hurt...*** yourself.

Your lies are of no interest to me. I will be ***young forever.***

Go, Scout!

Of legal knowledge, I acquired such a grip that they took me into the partnership.

And that junior partnership, I ween, was the only ship I ever had seen.

TRANSCRIPT:
SUPERBAD GUYS WITH ERIN AND FRED

PODCAST EPISODE 103: "COUNT NEFARIA"

ERIN: So why exactly is Count Nefaria so afraid of getting old?

FRED: I'm so glad you asked. It started when he was fighting a super hero named the Whizzer.

ERIN: Please tell me the Whizzer didn't dress entirely in bright yellow.

FRED: It was a simpler time. Anyway, the Whizzer told Nefaria, "It doesn't matter what you do, because you're over fifty."

ERIN: Wait. Was the Whizzer's real super-power ageism?

FRED: Yes. Kinda. But internalized? Basically, the Whizzer was like, "You're past your prime, just like me. So go ahead, take over the world. You'll still be dead in twenty or thirty years, and then you'll be consigned to the history books and kids will use GPT-Chat to write plausible but poorly sourced essays about you."

ERIN: And so Nefaria was like, "Okay, that sounds great. I get to rule the world for twenty or thirty years and be remembered by history forever"?

FRED: Nope. He was horrified. Especially after the Whizzer compared him to Hitler.

ERIN: It's all fun until somebody invokes Godwin's Law.

FRED: Literally the only law super villains care about! Anyway, then the scientist who gave Nefaria his powers lied and said that every time Nefaria used ionic energy, he'd grow older and weaker. This was just a ruse to get Nefaria off his guard, but it got in his head and freaked him out.

ERIN: Because he'd already been sprayed by the Whizzer.

FRED: Please stop.

ERIN: The Whizzer had already marked him.

FRED: Seriously. Please.

ERIN: The Whizzer had already told him, "urine trouble!"

FRED: This seems like a good time to talk about one of our sponsors.

—

I wanted to be a singer. My mom made me go to med school instead.

"You'll have job security. Everybody loves doctors." *Ugh.*

That sucks! Your singing was ***super pretty.***

Kill!!!

Volga! You lost the box again?!

This is the worst team I've ever been on, and that's ***saying something.***

Time to up the ante.

Give back Nefaria's property, or the at-risk youth dies!

Do you hear me?

I already took out everyone else. I'm counting to three, and this kid dies. ***One, two...***

Nefaria was holding ***tryouts.*** He wasn't planning on hiring Moonstone.

She's only here because we ***pissed Nefaria off.*** And now she's hurting everyone I love.

ZNAAAAAKK

Aaaaaahh!!!

But she's close enough for me to ***steal her mojo.*** Like Dani said.

See how ***she*** likes getting blasted.

...

I think she's ***dead.***

Oh god.

KREEEEEEEEK

She's still breathing. Barely.

You have to give her back her powers. NOW.

So numb inside.

KREEEEEK

The building sounds like it's about to collapse.

I... I can't.

If I undo the swap, she'll go right back to trying to kill us.

That's the life you wanted.

You *said* you didn't want to call yourself a super villain anymore.

You'll hate yourself if you let her die. Trust me.

It was *self-defense.*

And now it's not.

Groaannnnnn...

I'm going to make you my project. Knock down some walls.

KROOOOOK

That doesn't sound good.

When I said "go to ground," I didn't mean literally.

I...think I'm not okay.

I know.

We have to get everyone out.

=Koff... koff...=

Time to sneak out the back. Keep moving.

Can't let them find this--

Oh. Hi there.

We'll be taking that.

Nefaria! I've got most of them down here!

Time to *go*, people!

Morgan, I'm really sorry. I've been a jerk--

I'm still mad. But I love you.

The ion siphon is ready. Let's ***end this.***

Aaaah no! I can't lose my cyborg implants!

Hold still, dammit!

First singing, now dancing--did ***everyone but me*** get a libretto?

⇉Huff...⇇ Hah... I'm so close. ⇉Huff...⇇ My power cannot desert me now.

FWOOSH

Got something for you, ***Bela Lugosi.***

Yes! Yes! Give me *more!*

Did you really think I would allow myself to be defeated the same way *twice?*

My cells are so *damaged,* they can barely store ionic energy.

I *was* completely *drained,* but you have granted me a brief reprieve with which to seek a more lasting solution.

We repo-ed the box, boss.

Excellent. Bring that building *down.*

This is for *almost letting me die!*

Everyone into the *basement!*

THOOOOOOOOMMMMMMMMM

Come, my Legion. We have much to prepare.

Koff

I can't believe I almost *killed* Moonstone.

I was so worried about ***someone else*** misusing my powers. I should've worried about ***myself.***

Everyone okay?

We lost them.

Karma found out Nefaria's whole plan!

He's going to trap a bunch of people in the Chavetz Center and use the Weird Engine to turn them into ***ionic batteries*** so he can ***restore himself.*** He knows it probably won't work... but he's desperate.

And we just bought him more time. *Ugh.*

I'm just glad you're okay.

Okay, then. We're ***on the clock.*** Let's go to Midtown.

I call ***shotgun!***

Our car was ***totaled.***

Let's take the Lethal Legion ***down.***

Literally the only good thing about today is that I'm not on my own anymore. I'm part of a ***team.***

Even if I don't believe in ***me,*** I believe in them. In ***us.***

To be concluded!

[new_mutants_[0.04]

NEXT

5

ISSUE:	
IMMORTAL X-MEN #12	
X-MEN #23	
BISHOP: WAR COLLEGE #5	
X-MEN: BEFORE THE FALL – MUTANT FIRST STRIKE #1	
DEADPOOL: BADDER BLOOD #1	
X-MEN RED #12	
ROGUE & GAMBIT #4	
WOLVERINE #34	
X-23: DEADLY REGENESIS #3	
X-FORCE #41	
➤ NEW MUTANTS LETHAL LEGION #4	
BETSY BRADDOCK: CAPTAIN BRITAIN #5	
STORM #2	
DEADPOOL #8	
X-MEN: BEFORE THE FALL – HERALDS OF APOCALYPSE #1	

[kra_[0.0]...]
[koa_[0.0]...]

ZONE